

NOTES ON THE GENUS *PARANCISTROLEPIS* AZUMA (BUCCINIDAE)

Tadashige Habe

National Science Museum, Tokyo, 160, Japan

The genus *Parancistrolepis* was established by Azuma in 1965 for *Japelion(?) kinoshitai* Kuroda, 1931, because of the remarkable radular features, which superficially resemble the radula of the family Fasciolariidae rather than that of the family Buccinidae in having a three-cuspidate central tooth and a eight-to-nine-cuspidate marginal tooth.

This genus was also assigned *Ancistrolepis fujitai* Kuroda, 1931, by him, only because of the shell characters and the extremely small operculum which closely resembled those of the type species. This species differs from the type species by its thick velvety periostracum on the surface and in being surrounded by prominent spiral cords. *Ancistrolepis hiranoi* Shikama, 1962, is an absolute synonym of *A. fujitai* Kuroda.

The writer has observed and figures here the radulae of *Parancistrolepis kinoshitai* (Kuroda) and *Ancistrolepis fujitai* Kuroda tentatively assigned to the genus *Parancistrolepis* by Azuma. These two species have the same radular formula, suggesting they belong to the same genus as follows:

In *Parancistrolepis kinoshitai*, the central tooth is subquadrate in shape and has three small cusps at its hind margin and the marginal tooth is large and transversely broad and has eight to ten cusps.

In *Ancistrolepis fujitai*, the central tooth has four small cusps and the marginal tooth 14 cusps just as does the type species.

The radula of *fujitai* does not agree well with that of the genus *Ancistrolepis* Dall, 1895, in spite of the close resemblance of its shell features. Therefore, we assign it to *Parancistrolepis* Azuma, 1965.

An examination of the anatomy of *Ancistrolepis grammata* (Dall, 1907) shows the radula of the genus *Ancistrolepis* has a four-to-six-cuspidate central tooth and a four-cuspidate marginal tooth. Unfortunately, the radula of *Ancistrolepis eucosmia* (Dall, 1891), the

type species of the genus *Ancistrolepis*, has never been examined.

The genus *Parancistrolepis* is a peculiar group in having the thin shell ornamented by prominent spiral cords and covered by a thick periostracum, in having an extremely small operculum, and by its marginal tooth having many cusps. These features are far apart from the related subfamilies Neptuneinae and Ancistrolepisinae. I therefore establish a new subfamily *Parancistrolepisinae*.



Fig. 1. *Parancistrolepis fujitai* (Kuroda) from off Kushiro, Hokkaido Island, Japan.

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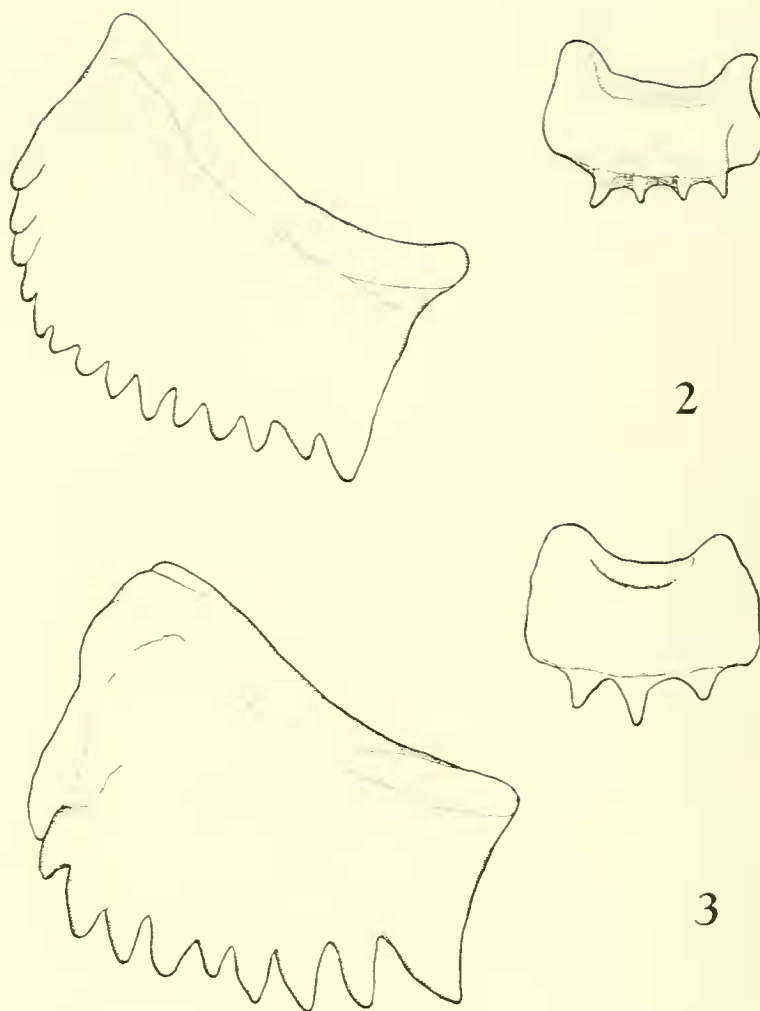


Fig. 2. Half row of radula of *Parancistrolepis fujitai* (Kuroda) from off Kushiro, Hokkaido Island, Japan.

Fig. 3. Radula of *P. kinoshitai* (Kuroda) from Enshunada, Honshu Island, Japan.